



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family  
Independence  
Agency**

235 S. Grand Avenue  
PO Box 30037  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Tel: (517) 373-2035  
Fax: (517) 373-8471  
[www.mfia.state.mi.us](http://www.mfia.state.mi.us)

DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

# News Release

**Contact:** Karen Smith  
MFIA Office of Communications

**Phone:** (517) 373-7394  
**Date:** September 14, 2001

## Calhoun County Project Zero Site Hits Zero *91st Community to Achieve Goal*

The Calhoun County Project Zero program reached “zero” September 12, when all targeted Family Independence Program (FIP) cases in the county were reporting earnings. Calhoun County became the 91st Project Zero site to reach “zero” since September 1997 when the first Project Zero site in the state reached that benchmark.

“In state government, we once believed that moving people from welfare to work was one of our greatest dilemmas,” said Governor John Engler. “Project Zero has proved that when state and local agencies, businesses and service providers work together, any community, regardless of its geographic location, distance to jobs, or the makeup of its people can achieve the goal of helping clients move from welfare to economic self-sufficiency.”

Calhoun County Family Independence Agency (FIA) director Katherine L. Haines said, “I am tremendously proud of efforts by FIA staff and customers, Work First, Michigan Works!, Goodwill Industries and others to reach this milestone. We all traveled a long road to reach zero and the trip has been as valuable as the achievement.”

-more-



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

Project Zero began with six pilot sites in July 1996 and is currently operational at 103 sites in all 83 Michigan counties. “Zero” is defined as the point in time when all targeted FIP (formerly AFDC) cases who are expected to work are working and earning income. Targeted cases are those open 60 days, required to participate in the Work First program and expected to have earnings.

“Kathy Haines and her staff deserve congratulations,” said state FIA director Douglas Howard. “They and their community partners have done an outstanding job. I also want to congratulate our hard-working FIP customers and the Calhoun County employers who hired them. They’re the folks who really made this happen.”

Project Zero is a cooperative effort involving state and local agencies, businesses and service providers. State level partners include the FIA, the departments of Career Development, Transportation and Community Health and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Local projects access state resources through formal agreements between state and local agencies.

# # #

For more information consult the “Project Zero” website at [www.mfia.state.mi.us/PROJZERO/](http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/PROJZERO/)